

Docket No. FA1068

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Processes for the production of multi-coat lacquers by the application of a clear lacquer coat of a radiation-curable coating agent to a pigmented base lacquer coat and subsequent curing of the clear lacquer coat by the action of actinic radiation are known from EP-A-0 540 884 and WO 98 40 171. Both parent documents disclose clear lacquer compositions including those containing urethane (meth)acrylates.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The clear lacquer formulations according to EP-A-0 540 884 and WO 98 40-171 are suitable for the production of scratch-resistant base lacquer/clear lacquer two-coat lacquers, however the flexibility of the two-coat lacquers needs to be improved. The clear lacquers referred to in the examples of EP-A-0 540 884 and WO 98 40 171 have relatively high contents of low or non-volatile reaction thinners which, after application of the clear lacquers, can lead to an undesirable partial dissolution of the base lacquer coats resulting in deviations in colour or effect.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A process for the production of multi-coat lacquers by the application of a heat-cured clear lacquer coat to a pigmented base lacquer coat, subsequent heat curing and application of a further clear lacquer coat based on radiation curable coating agents, and subsequent curing of the second clear lacquer coat by the action of actinic radiation, is known from EP-A-0 568 967.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The demands for scratch resistance of vehicle lacquers are constantly increasing. Multi-coat lacquers produced according to the examples of EP-A-0 568 967 are scratch-resistant, but very brittle.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The object can be achieved in that a clear lacquer coat, curable by radical polymerisation, is applied to a previously applied colour and/or effect-providing base lacquer coat and/or a transparent coating agent coat is applied to the outer finishing coat of a lacquered substrate surface and this is cured by the action of high-energy radiation, a transparent coating agent being used to apply the outer clear lacquer finishing coat and/or sealing coat, which contains as the substantial or only constituent to its resin solid, an aliphatic urethane (meth)acrylate.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Summary of the Invention

The invention therefore provides a process for the production of a base lacquer/clear lacquer two-coat lacquer and/or a transparent sealing coat on the outer finishing coat of a lacquered substrate surface, in which a clear lacquer coat curable by radical polymerisation is applied to a previously applied colour and/or effect-providing base lacquer coat and/or a transparent coating agent coat is applied to the outer finishing coat of a lacquered substrate surface and cured by the action of high-energy radiation, characterised in that to apply the outer clear lacquer coat and/or sealing coat, a transparent coating agent is used of which the resin solid consists of:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Detailed Description of the Invention

The resin solid of the coating agents used in the process according to the invention to produce the clear lacquer top coat and/or sealing coat consists of binder (component I) and optionally present reactive thinners (component II) in the weight ratio given above. The term "resin solid" does not take account of the fact that component I or, in particular, component II, may contain volatile portions, for example portions, which are volatile during application or curing of the clear lacquer top coat and/or sealing coat, and thus does not exclude such portions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 26 through page 8, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The resin solid of the clear lacquer coating agents and/or sealing coating agents can contain as component II, 0 to 30, more preferably 0 to 10 wt.% and even more preferably 0 to 5 wt.% of one or more reactive thinners having radically polymerisable olefinic unsaturated groups with calculated molar masses of less than 500 each. It is particularly preferred, if the selected proportion of reactive thinners in the resin solid is low and in particular if there is no reactive thinner in the clear lacquer coating agent and/or sealing coating agent. The reactive thinners of component II are low-molecular compounds, which can be mono-, di- or polyunsaturated. The reactive thinners can be volatile, slow-evaporating or non-volatile compounds. Examples of reactive thinners are: (meth)acrylic acid and its esters, maleic acid and its semi-esters, vinyl acetate, vinyl ether, substituted vinyl ureas, ethylene- and propylene glycol di(meth) acrylate, 1,3- and 1,4-butanediol di(meth) acrylate, vinyl(meth)acrylate, ally(meth)acrylate, glycerine tri-, di- and mono(meth)acrylate, trimethylol propane tri-, di- and mono(meth)acrylate, styrene, vinyl toluene, divinyl